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# Military Influence Deplored

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The military influence in the United States now has reached such proportions it has become a "national security state," Congressional and civilian participants in a Conference on the Military, Budget and National Priorities declared on Capitol Hill yesterday.

And the only way to reverse this trend, according to the conference chairman, Arthur Larson, United States Information Agency director during the Eisenhower Administration, is through a get-tough scrutiny of future military requests on the part of Congress, the Executive and the public.

## Surtax Deal Suggested

Sen. Gaylord Nelson (D-Wis.) and Rep. Donald M. Fraser (D-Minn.) suggested that Congress balk at approving the Administration's request to extend the 10 per cent surtax if the Administration insists on appropriations for deploying the new Safeguard Anti-Ballistic Missile system.

"Many members don't want to be put in a position of voting for the surtax if it means financing military spending beyond the security needs of the country," Fraser declared.

Maryland University Prof. Charles L. Schultze, Budget Bureau director during the Johnson Administration, suggested that Congress insist on a military expenditure ceiling as its price for approving the surtax.

He acknowledged from his own experience that the Executive fails to stare down the Joint Chiefs of Staff when they make their requests. But Schultze said the Executive is not the only one at fault.

"The general attitude of the American people is that if you wrap it in a flag and call it 'national security,' you can't question it," Schultze declared.

The former Budget Director said the military now has so many requests for new weapons systems and equipment

backlogged that they not only will eat up all the savings first considered suspending from an end of the Vietnam war but actually increase the military expenditure level the country now is maintaining during this war period.

Schultze and other participants declared at yesterday's wind-up press conference that the time now had come to establish one or more independent review boards.

Then, said Schultze, Congress and the Executive would be better able to act when the Joint Chiefs demand endorsement for maintaining conventional weapons for a someday land war with China in Southeast Asia and, with that endorsement, proceed to nibble away at the national budget item by item.

## Joint Committee Urged

Gerard Piel, editor of Scientific American, joined others in urging establishment of a Joint Congressional Committee, similar to the National Economic Committee set up during the Depression.

This, he indicated, could skirt the rigid seniority jurisdictions of a Congress which now delegates cross-examination to the militarily sympathetic Armed Services and Appropriations Committees.

Harvard Prof. John Kenneth Galbraith called the committee members the "Second lieutenant sycophants of the Pentagon."

An extreme view, presented by Marcus Raskin, co-director of Washington's Institute for Policy Studies, urged the dismantling of Central Intelligence Agency, the Defense Department and the National Security Agency within the next decade as the only sure way of reversing the "national security state" and insuring the continuance of a free society.

Conference Chairman Larson said the conference members as a whole postponing deployment of the Safeguard ABM until the United States had a chance to see how far it could go in missile limitation talks with the Russians; postponing final testing of the Multiple Independently-targetable Re-entry Vehicle (MIRV) lest its development make any missile limitation impossible; to police; and a Soviet-American standstill on testing and deployment of all new systems during what it hoped will be "immediate" missile talks.

Larson said the conference first considered suspending Friday after General Eisenhower's death, but then decided that "nothing could be more appropriate" than carrying on.

Larson noted that Gen. Eisenhower "successfully coped with the whole relation of the civilian to the military, in keeping the military budget under control and in warning of undue power getting into the hands of what he called 'the military-industrial complex.'"

Altogether, 14 Senators and 30 Congressmen, all Democrats, participated with 16 lay experts in military politics and economics at the two-day conference.

Orig. Institute for  
Policy Studies